

Application No.: 09/555,349

IN THE CLAIMS:

Claims 1-31. (Canceled)

Claim 32. (Previously presented) A method for producing a monoclonal antibody specific for an antigen, the method comprising:

- (a) immunizing a transgenic mouse overexpressing CD19, and having antibody-producing cells with disrupted peripheral tolerance, with an antigen to permit said antibody-producing cells to produce antibodies to the antigen, wherein said antigen is selected from the group consisting of an autoantigen and a highly conserved antigen;
- (b) removing at least a portion of said antibody-producing cells from the mouse;
- (c) forming a hybridoma by fusing one of the antibody-producing cells with an immortalizing cell wherein the hybridoma is capable of producing a monoclonal antibody to the antigen;
- (d) propagating the hybridoma; and
- (e) harvesting the monoclonal antibodies produced by the hybridoma.

Claim 33. (New) The method of claim 32, wherein said monoclonal antibodies comprise antibodies having an affinity constant of greater than 1×10^5 liters per mole for said antigen.